

A stylized landscape illustration featuring rolling green hills in the foreground and background. On the left, a green tree and a purple flower stand on a hill. A red bird is flying in the sky. The sky is composed of horizontal bands of blue and white. The title 'Compassion' is written in a large, brown, cursive font in the center-right of the image.

# Compassion

*A book by Max Corral, Keith Laguitan,  
Yvette Laguitan and Isabel Lopez*



*To the children of the  
Neighborhood House Head Start*



“Compassion”, she said

As she tucked little Rudy to bed.

“Mom what’s that?” he wondered.

And throughout the night,

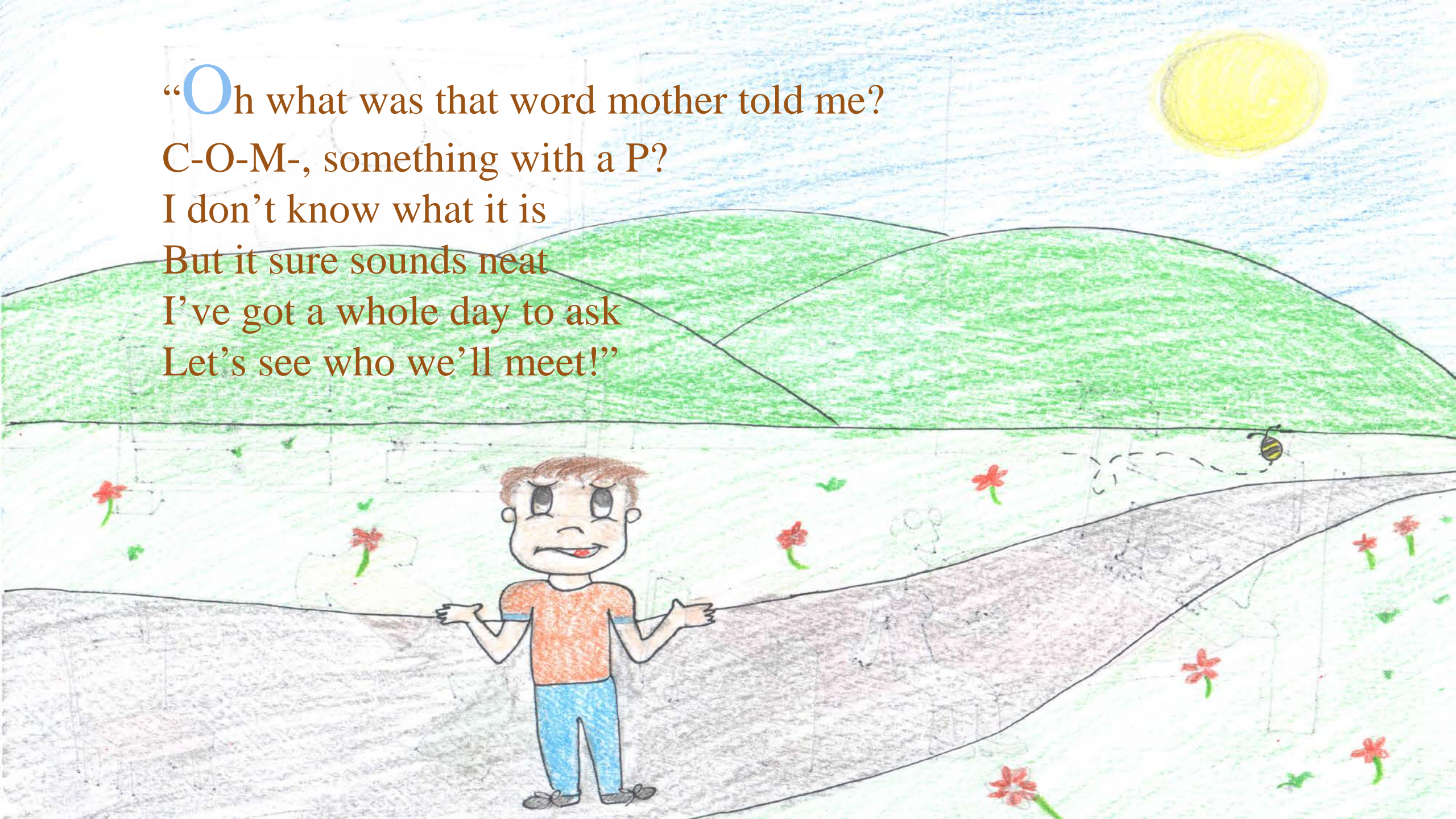
As the stars shone bright,

Little Rudy pondered.

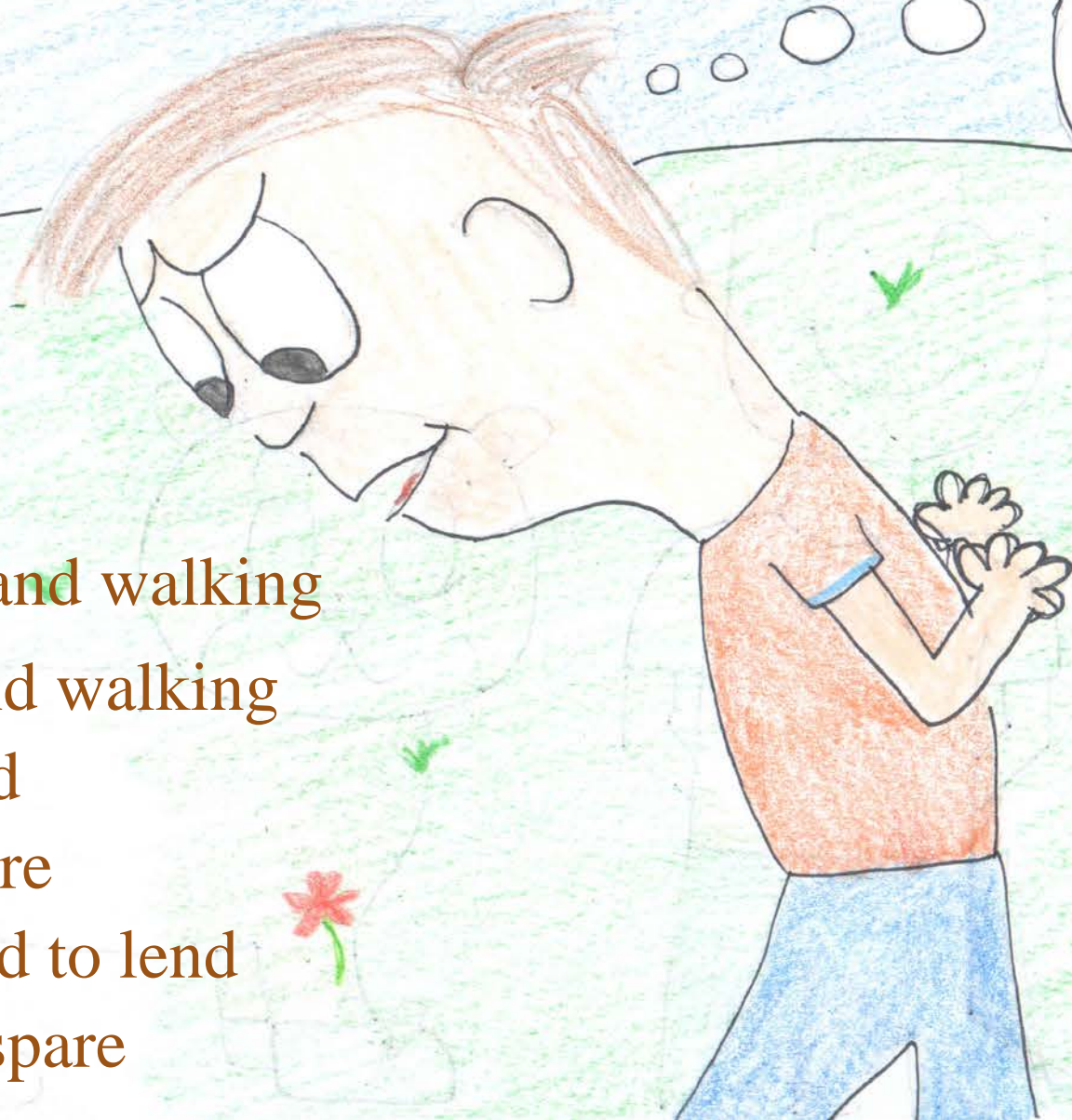




“Oh what was that word mother told me?  
C-O-M-, something with a P?  
I don’t know what it is  
But it sure sounds neat  
I’ve got a whole day to ask  
Let’s see who we’ll meet!”







Mumbling and thinking and walking  
Mumbling and thinking and walking  
Until Rudy spotted a friend  
Who needed someone's care  
Rudy figured he had a hand to lend  
And he had a few time to spare



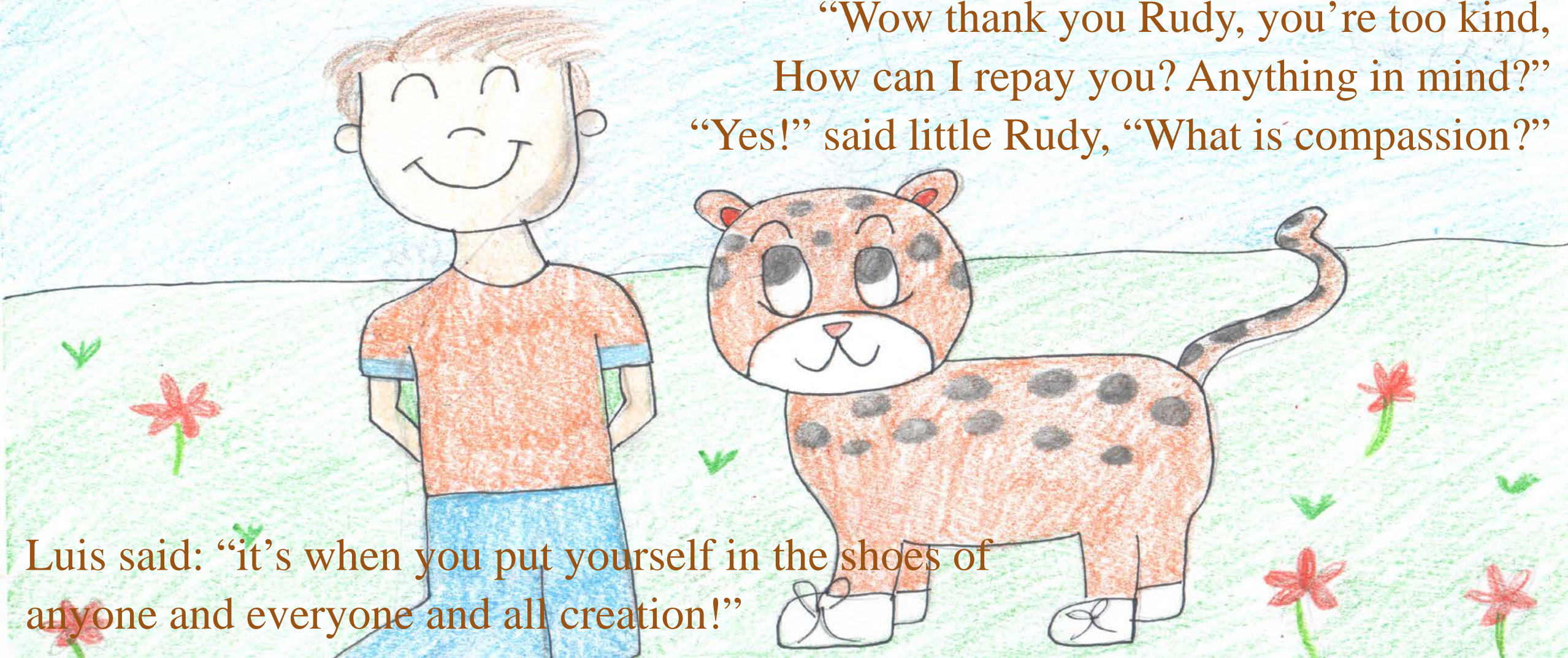
“Please help, Rudy!” said Luis the Leopard,

“I can’t seem to tie my shoe!”

“A loop here, a loop there, that should do!”

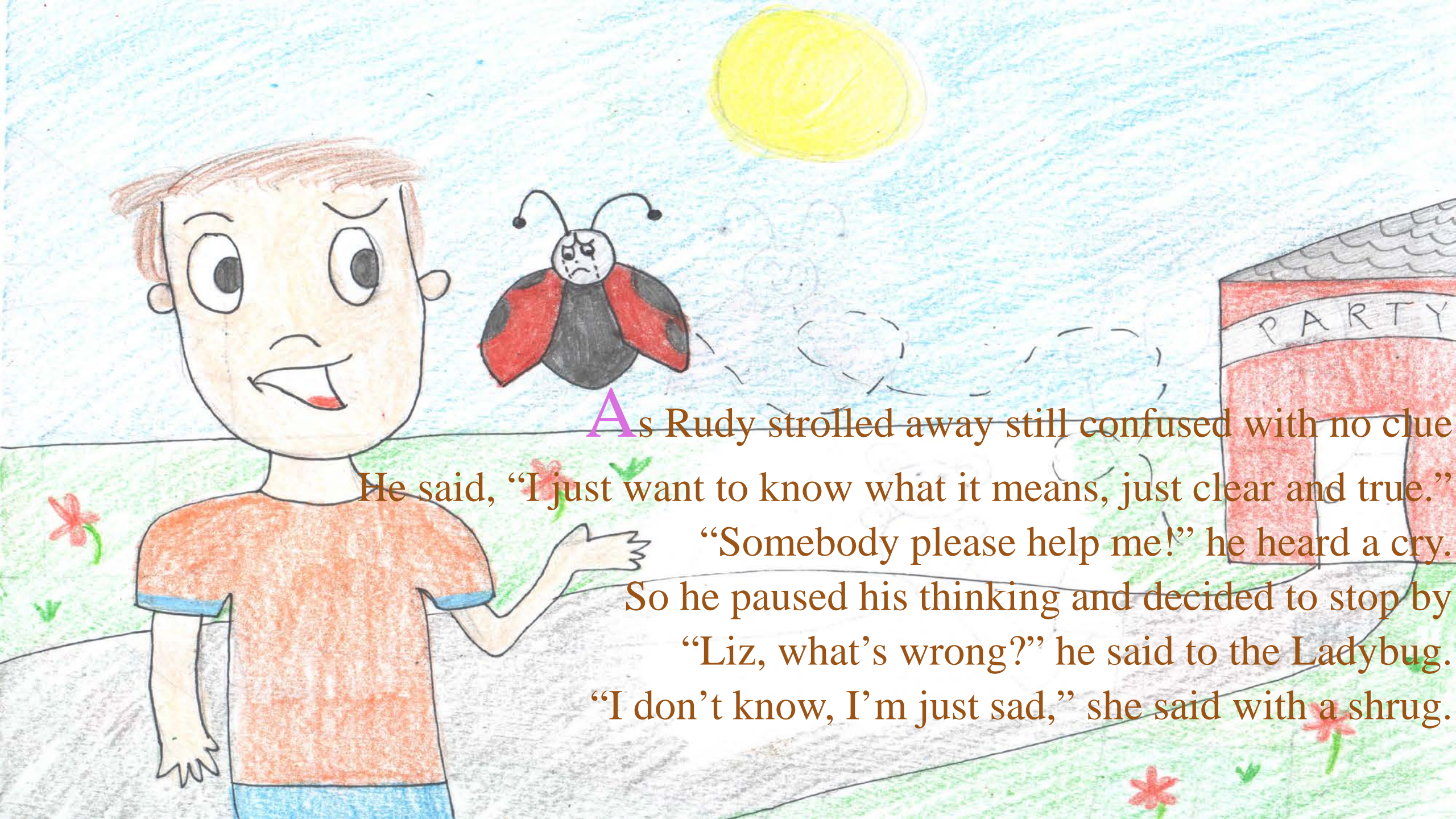
“Wow thank you Rudy, you’re too kind,  
How can I repay you? Anything in mind?”

“Yes!” said little Rudy, “What is compassion?”



Luis said: “it’s when you put yourself in the shoes of  
anyone and everyone and all creation!”

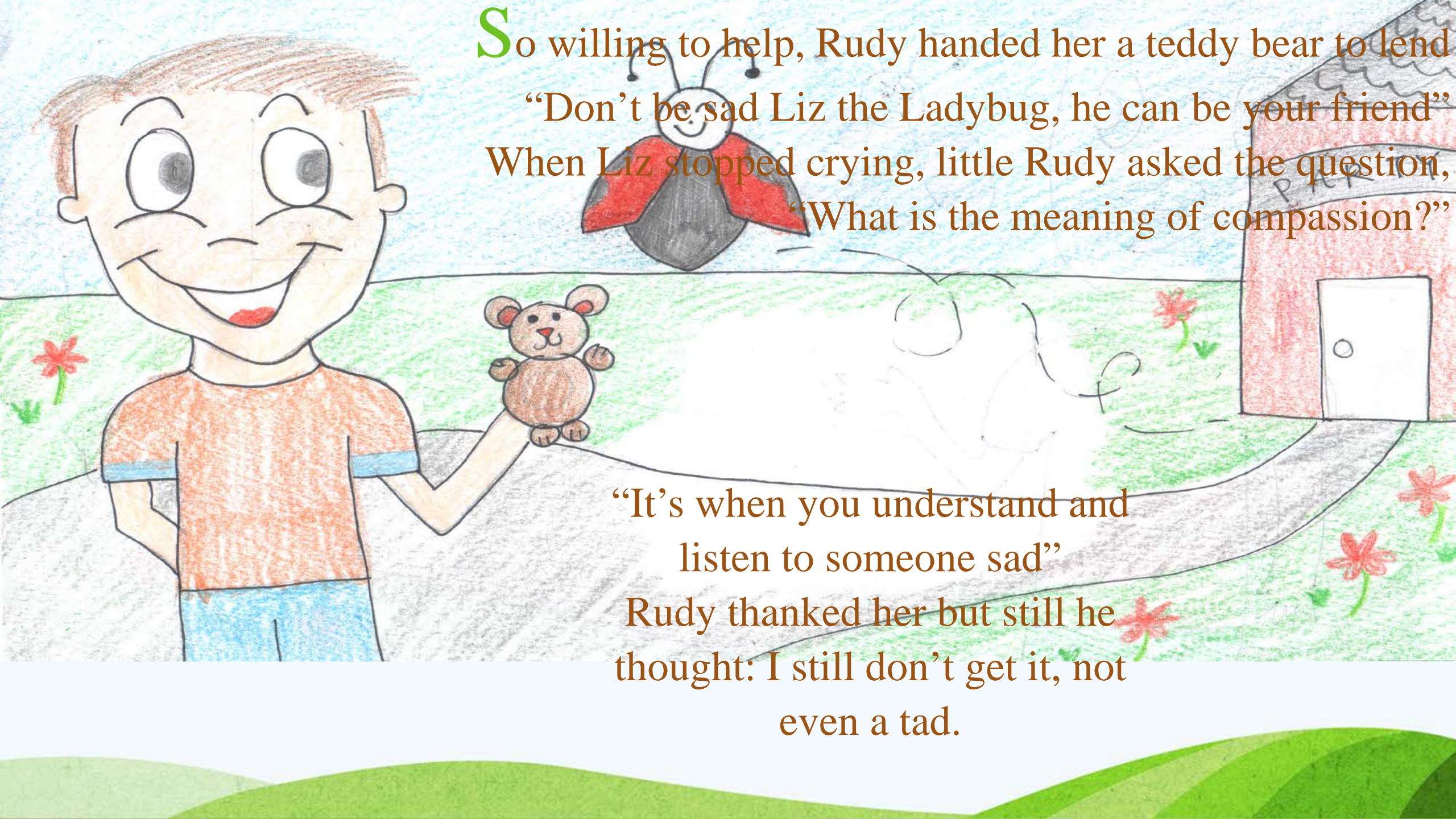




As Rudy strolled away still confused with no clue  
He said, “I just want to know what it means, just clear and true.”

“Somebody please help me!” he heard a cry.  
So he paused his thinking and decided to stop by  
“Liz, what’s wrong?” he said to the Ladybug.  
“I don’t know, I’m just sad,” she said with a shrug.



A colorful illustration of a boy named Rudy with brown hair, wearing an orange t-shirt and blue pants, holding a brown teddy bear. Above him is a ladybug named Liz with a red and black body and a smiling face. To the right is a red house with a white door. In the background, a ghost is visible. The scene is set in a garden with green grass and red flowers.

So willing to help, Rudy handed her a teddy bear to lend  
“Don’t be sad Liz the Ladybug, he can be your friend”  
When Liz stopped crying, little Rudy asked the question,  
“What is the meaning of compassion?”

“It’s when you understand and  
listen to someone sad”

Rudy thanked her but still he  
thought: I still don’t get it, not  
even a tad.



Step by step Rudy took, still wondering

“Rudy! Rudy! Come please!” he heard someone muttering

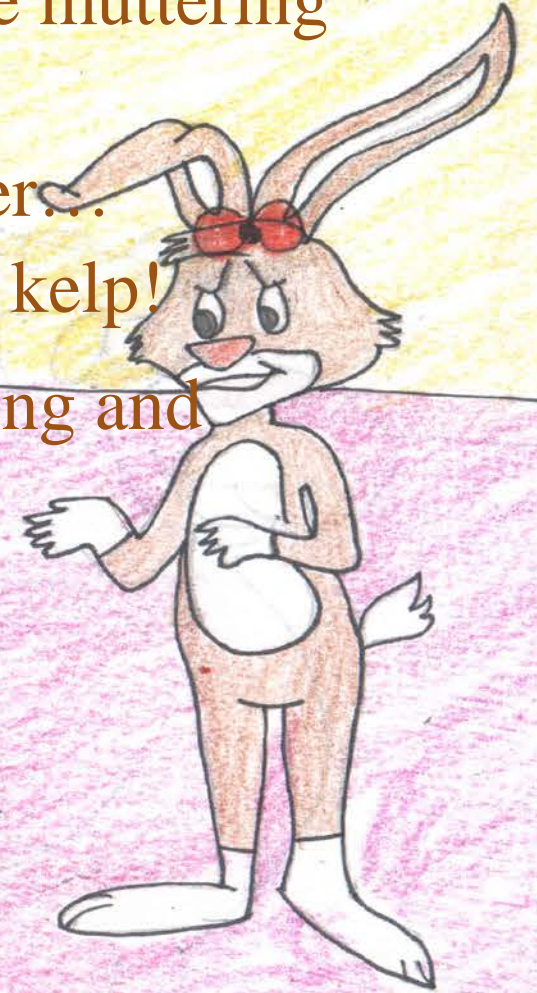
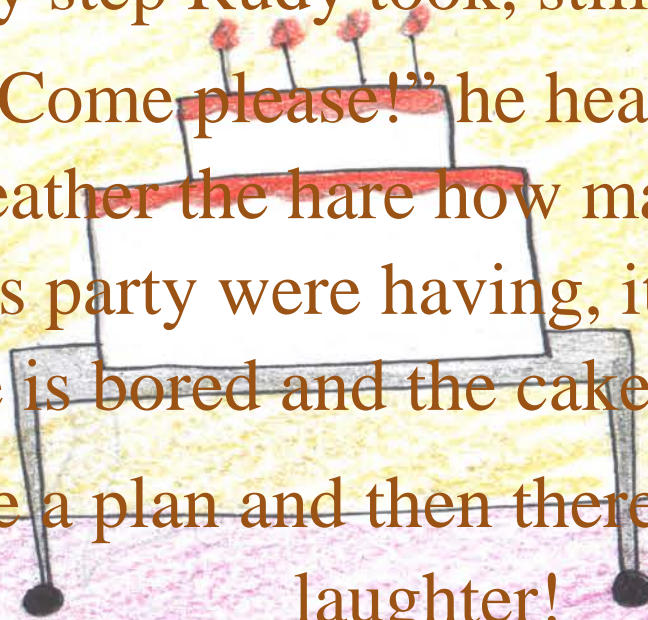
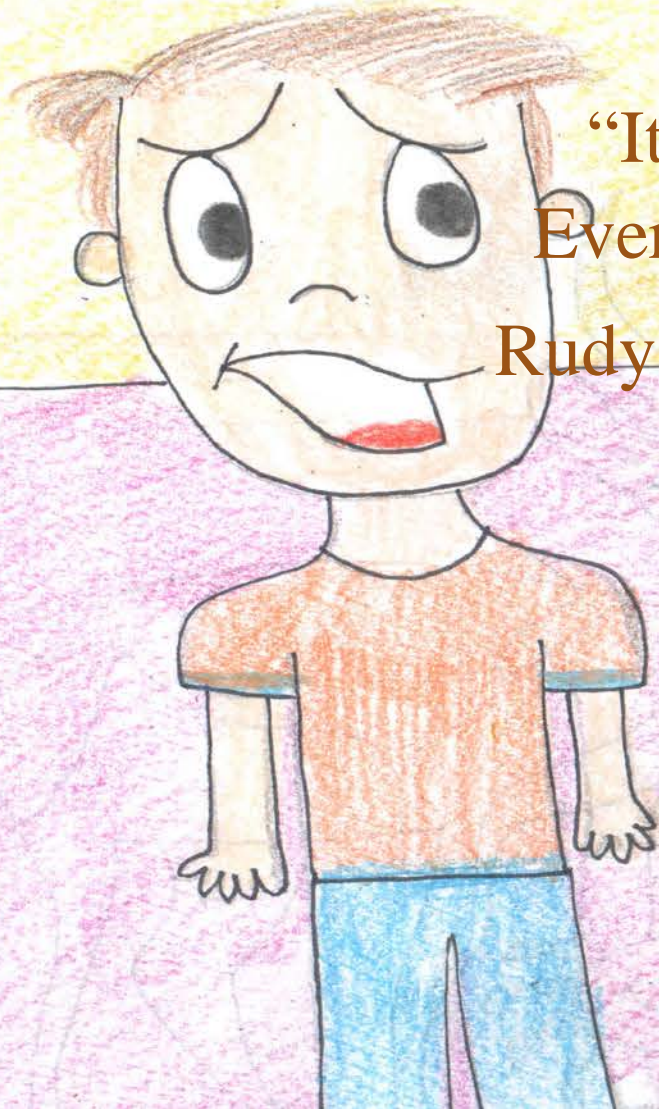
“Heather the hare how may I help?”

“It’s this party were having, it’s a disaster...”

Everyone is bored and the cake tastes like kelp!

Rudy made a plan and then there was dancing and  
laughter!

But before everyone  
gets tired, he yelled,  
“What does compassion  
mean, everyone?”



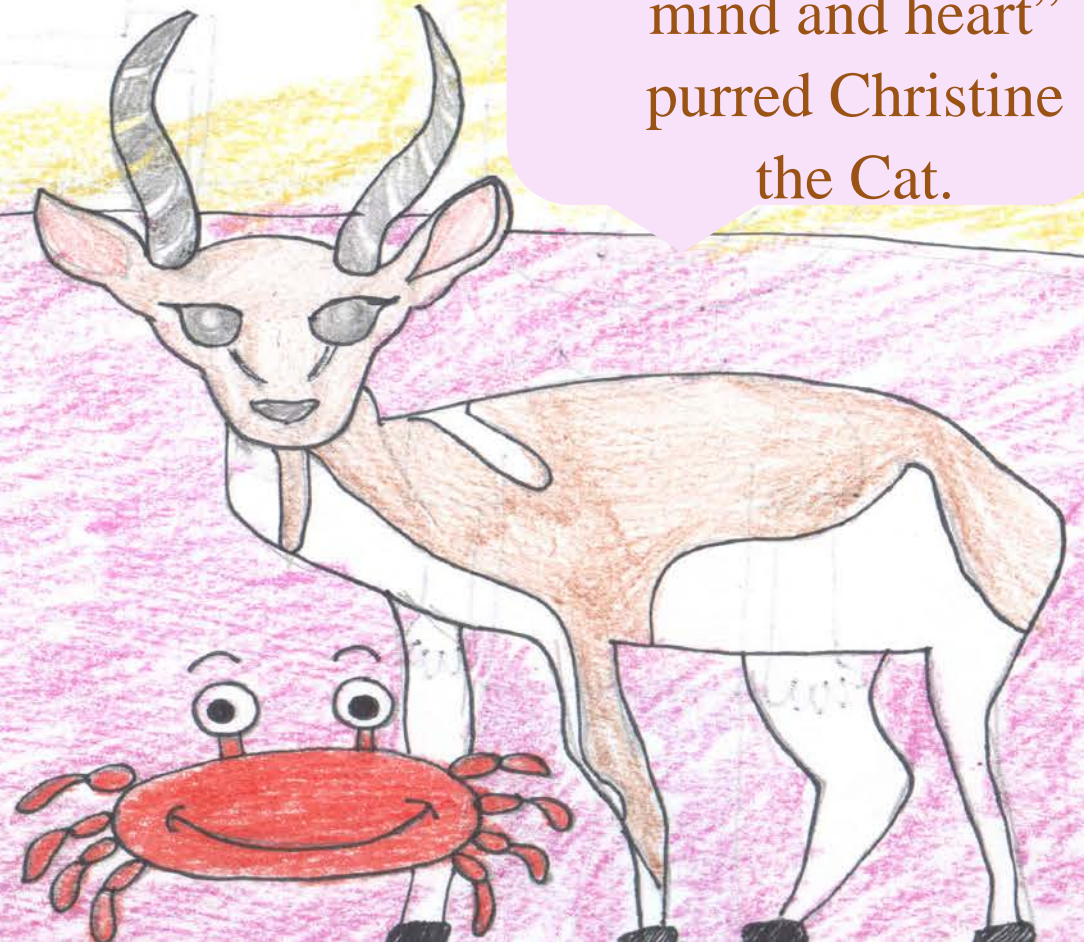


“It’s when you care  
for others!” screeched  
Paulette the Parrot

“It’s many  
forms of  
helping”  
cheered Antonia  
the Antelope

“Being the same  
level as others!”  
snapped Craig  
the Crab

“When you  
have an open  
mind and heart”  
purred Christine  
the Cat.





Only after the party, Rudy thought long and hard  
He just couldn't give it a rest  
Is it a fun game? A furry sweater? A Christmas card?  
It was just too confusing, like a long math test!





Night time came along so Rudy went to bed,  
Still thinking of the word his mother had said,  
“Mommy, what is compassion, that word you say?”  
“Oh Rudy, you knew what it meant all along...  
When you helped your friends all day...  
But if I really must answer your question,  
Compassion, my little Rudy, is love in action.”



Rudy smiled and slept soundly with a satisfied reaction.





# The End

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